The World Divided by a Line is a Dead Body Cut in Two: The Twenty-Second Newsletter (2019).

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the desk of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

Word comes from friends in Iran of foreboding, a general sense of fear that the United States might bomb the country at any time.
A friend in Tehran asks me to read Simin Behbahani’s *The World is Shaped Like a Sphere*, a poem for our times. (Behbahani (1923-2003), a superb lyricist, wrote this poem in 1946.) Translated by Farzaneh Wilkins and Kevin Gallo

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In Iran, the new war is often used in reference to the US sanctions. “Why don’t they (the US) leave us in peace?” asked my friend Hamid late last year.

Unemployment has increased. Workers are often told by their employers that they cannot get paid because “there is no money anywhere.” The informal sector has grown, with precarious jobs without health and unemployment insurance becoming the norm. People from the middle-class do not see any future in Iran. Lines outside European embassies are getting longer and more crowded. 

A war against Iran – as Hamid says – will be catastrophic, not only for Iran but for Eurasia. It would divide the world into two, vultures and hyenas feasting on both halves.

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While Hamid – in a small village – struggles to survive, middle-class Iranians seek a way to flee the country. I have been monitoring the flight of the middle-class from Iran for the past few years. 

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